

ICF Conference Program

Session 5:

Track 1:

Louise van Rhyn

Topic: Insights and challenges from the field of Neuroleadership

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

“Louise van Rhyn is a social entrepreneur. She is working to **‘strengthen the fabric of South African society’** and to fulfill her personal mission to **enable more people to live with joy and possibility**. She is founder and CEO of three organisations: **Symphonia Leadership Development** (an Organisational Development practice), **Symphonia Consulting** (offering capacity building for organisational change practitioners), and **Symphonia for South Africa** (an NPO focused on ‘strengthening the fabric of South African society’).

Louise has more than 20 years of experience as change leader and activist and has worked in the US, UK, many countries in Europe, Singapore, Australia and South Africa. She holds BSc and MBA degrees and a Doctoral degree in organisational change (DMAN) and works with business leaders to help them to implement organisational change. She is currently launching a large-scale social change project to mobilize South African citizens to contribute to addressing the key challenges in South Africa.

In her work as Organisational Development consultant, she challenges and supports leaders and change agents (at all levels of organisations), to create organisations where people can thrive and do their best work. She uses ideas from NeuroLeadership, Reinventing Management and complexity sciences in her work.”

ABSTRACT

NeuroLeadership is an emerging field of study focused on bringing neuroscientific knowledge into the areas of leadership development, management training, change management, education, consulting and coaching. As a practitioner, Louise have found it very useful to bring neuroscience into her work with organisational leaders as it appears to resonate with senior leaders (who may ordinarily be a bit sceptical of all that is too people-focused). Findings from Neuroscience challenges us to re-think organisational practice and ways of doing that are making it difficult and/or impossible for people to thrive. It offers new insights and challenges to what we focus our attention on and how we live our lives (as practitioners and members of organisations and communities) so that we can unleash more joy and possibility into the world.